

## **FSGW Board Meeting Minutes** **April 2, 2019**

### ***Attendance and quorum***

Charlie Baum (President) called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm. A quorum was present: Ingrid Gorman (Vice President), Jerry Stein (Treasurer), Kim Gandy (Secretary), Mike Livingston (Programs), Ben Sela (Dance), Renée Brachfeld (At Large), Don Fahey (At Large) and Jerry Blum (At Large), attended in person. Sinead Walshe (Publications) participated by Zoom/phone. Guests participating were Neil Zimmerman, Will Strang, Charlie Pilzer, and Bill Rucker. Absent was April Blum (Past President). Jen Furlong (Membership) joined the meeting later.

### ***Adoption of March minutes***

Jerry B. moved to adopt the March minutes as presented; Jerry S. seconded; the motion carried without objection.

### ***OLD BUSINESS***

#### ***Progress reports:***

- WFF—Revised memorandum of agreement from Katey Boerner and GEPPAC has now been signed (Charlie)
- Chesapeake Dance Weekend progress report. They are up to 65 registrants, plus 25 staff/performers, for a total of 90. Agreed that having more people will make the event better, and that we would like to offer scholarships to members of the dance/door committee who make the FSGW dances run all year. Renée will talk with Michal Warshaw (CDW) to make sure the committee is OK with this, and then Ben will contact the dance/door committee members with the offer. Agreed that if anyone who wants a scholarship has already paid and requests a refund, we will provide it.
- Elections and Nominations committee—who is running? Jerry Stein reported on status.
- Glen Echo Gala—our ad is due for program book. Who wants to go? (We have through the May Board Meeting to decide.)
- Distribution of event passes with membership--We agreed to do this, but some haven't yet been properly distributed. How to execute? Jen did a PDF of the form and sent to Mandy.
- Offering FSGW memberships to WFF volunteers—Decided not to do this because there are hundreds of volunteers?

#### ***Larks/Ravens issues***

Discussion of the dance chair being in a no-win situation, with some people being upset at Ben no matter what ends up happening. Discussed how a resolution can be reached, and whether it should be decided by the dance chair after there has been an opportunity for the community to discuss impact. Don asked whether there is an 'I don't care' option? The fact that people show up at a meeting shows that the individuals who show up care a lot, but maybe there are many who don't care one way or the other. Will: How do you decide who is "the community" when you talk about the community making the decision. Also agreed that we need to document the decision and why, so it doesn't get revisited over and over.

Charlie Pilzer noted that at some dances where he plays (in other communities) the policy has been to use some non-gendered term. Split on this issues seems to be on the age of the caller (Charlie P.). Jerry

Blum doesn't mind non-gendered terms, but doesn't like "larks vs. ravens" as the gender-free choice. Neil: Why is this all on Ben's shoulders – the board should take responsibility for this decision, and if the board isn't willing to do that, then there should be a referendum of the membership. Mike noted that historically we empower the committee chairs to deal with issues like this. There were several additional comments and clarifying questions. Agreed to have FSGW hire a trained facilitator/mediator if Ben would like for us to do that, and Ben agreed. There was also an agreement in principle to time limits for speakers. Ingrid noted that the surveys didn't provide helpful information because the sample size was so small. Discussed possibly doing it on a Sunday evening before the dance, preferably June 9, and need to get something into the newsletter.

#### ***Review and Adoption of 2018-2019 FSGW budget***

The budget that was proposed last September was adopted by a vote of 7 to 2. In response to questions, Charlie B. outlined that there is an agreement to honor commitments that have been made in the past, and that in the future we will be more strict. He noted that our auditors have suggested that we should have more controls. Ingrid noted that we aren't eligible for grants from Montgomery County until we have a balanced budget. Don suggested that perhaps a small group get together and work on an analysis of our finances/budget. Renée moved that there also be a commitment of \$3000 for Grapevine for fiscal year 2019-2020 so that she can make plans. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

***Follow-up on FSGW survey and Retreat meeting with Nanette.*** Ingrid reviewed the notes from the Retreat, including the intention to prepare a Board Handbook, and have a committee to review the Mission Statement, as well as some specific actions. Ingrid will follow up via email.

#### ***NEW BUSINESS***

***Supporting the Silver Spring Blues Festival*** (10am to 10pm, DTSS, Saturday, June 15, 2019) Mike moved that we place \$250 at Ingrid's disposal and discretion, to facilitate our representation in the Silver Spring Blues Festival. Renee seconded. Motion carried without objection.

#### ***Next board meeting in May***

Scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2019; 8:00 pm, Glen Echo Park Arcade Room 201

#### ***Adjournment***

Moved that the meeting be adjourned by Jerry S., seconded by Ingrid. Motion carried.

#### ***Reports from committees***

**STORYTELLING:** Janice Curtis Greene returned to tell stories for our outreach program to Hope and a Home on Monday, March 25, 2019. There were 11 children attending, plus 4 adults and 2 young adult helpers. Janice used a participatory approach in which the children danced, made noise, and used puppets.